

# Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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## REPORT INFORMATION:

2000 Balicki, J., R. Pitts, K. Culhane, L. Young, D. Kellogg, B. Corle, and J. Green  
The End of the Line: Phase I and II Archeological Investigations at the Terminus of the C&O Canal, Crescent Lawn Archeological District (18AG227), Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland.  
Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration  
Library ID No: 00007669 Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 57

## Research Firm/Institution:

John Milner Associates, Inc.  
5250 Cherokee Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22312

## Sites examined:

18AG227

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

## Project Details:

Phase I ☒

Phase II ☒

Phase III

### Project Justification:

Phase I and II investigations were undertaken in downtown Cumberland, MD in advance of several proposed undertakings for the Canal Place project at the terminus of the C&O Canal. The Phase I survey work identified several site components associated with the historic occupation. While five components lacked integrity or research potential, four site components were recommended eligible for the NRHP and Phase II testing was undertaken as part of the mitigation process.

MAC Accession: 2006.004

### Project Objectives:

- Document any physical evidence for past occupations and land use in the project area and the extent of disturbances associated with COE flood control work.
- Determine the respective roles that the natural landscape and past activities contributed to the development of the stratigraphic record.
- Determine the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the resources.
- Determine if there are variations between what is depicted on historic maps and the physical evidence that may have survived.
- Assess how the deposits, features, and artifacts coalesced to form an archeological record of past events and specific occupations.
- Determine (primarily through archival work) who owned, managed, and lived in the project area.
- Determine how the archeological resources relate to the Growth of Transportation Network (1820-1860) period.
- Determine the economic importance of the unnamed turning basin shown on historic maps.
- Determine how access to the canal changed over time and also when and why businesses along the canal eventually forgo its use and begin filling it in.
- Locate any artifacts in canal sediments that provide information on the use of the area and lives of canal families.
- Locate any water-craft preserved in canal basin fill.
- Determine how the archeological resources relate to the Rise of Industry and Commerce (1860-1930) period.
- Locate any physical remains of a historically documented soap factory and assess whether associated artifacts conform or differ from contemporary middle-class or working-class sites.
- Locate any feature and deposits that contain information on the industrial process used in the foundry and soap factory.

## Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18AG227.

## REPORT INFORMATION:

2001 Balicki, J.

## Research Firm/Institution:

John Milner Associates, Inc.

Basin of Boats: the 2001 Archeological Monitoring of Proposed Sewer Enhancements within the Crescent Lawn Archeological District (18AG227), Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland.

Submitted to the Director of Engineers, City of Cumberland

5250 Cherokee Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22312

Library ID No: 97001118

Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 73

Sites examined:

18AG227

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III ☒

Project Justification:

The project was undertaken to document the impacts to archeological resources primarily within the unnamed turning basin sediments at 18AG227 during sewer line installation through the Crescent Lawn Archeological District. This sewer work was part of the broader Canal Place Heritage Area construction.

Project Objectives:

- Determine how the configuration of the unnamed turning basin changed over time.
- Determine if resources relating to an 1892-1904 boat slip are present.
- Determine how past activities contributed to the development of the stratigraphic record at the site.
- Determine whether resources relating to the Canal Towage Company boat yard are present at the south end of one of the proposed sewer line alignments.
- Locate and document any additional canal boats abandoned in the unnamed turning basin sediments.
- Assess the extent of flood-related deposits.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18AG227.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2007 Balicki, J.F. and B. Corle  
On the Waterfront: Cultural Resource Investigations for the Cumberland Flood Mitigation Proposed Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Rewatering Project, C&O Canal National Historic Park, Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland.  
Submitted to the Baltimore District, Army Corps of Engineers

Research Firm/Institution:

John Milner Associates, Inc.  
5250 Cherokee Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22312

Library ID No: 97002454

Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 83

Sites examined:

18AG227

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III ☒

Project Justification:

The project was undertaken because of major impacts to the site brought on by the reconstruction and rewatering of the canal turning basin and other interpretive features for the Canal Place Heritage Area, a component of the C&O Canal National Historic Park. The construction impacts to the archeological deposits included the destruction of all archeological resources within the bounds of the rewatered turning basin. Destroyed resources include the boatyard waterfront fronting on the Main Basin and the remnants of eight canal boats. In order to mitigate the adverse effects to these significant resources, data recovery excavations were undertaken on the Weld and Sheridan Boat Building and Repair Yard waterfront ground surface and recordation was undertaken on waterfront features and eight boats. Construction of the rewatered prism was monitored and the Canal Towage Company boatyard was recorded in case its remains could not be incorporated into the design of the new interpretive features.

Project Objectives:

- Determine how the configuration of the turning basin and boatyard waterfront changed over time. With respect to the latter, assess whether these changes were related to new construction techniques or the changing economic position of the boatyard.
- Determine the functional layout of the boatyard, particularly as it relates to the documented marine railway bulkhead.
- Assess how the location of the boatyard and the unnamed turning basin relative to the canal affected its layout and growth.
- Obtain more detailed information on the construction of the marine bulkhead and its deposition in the surrounding strata.
- Ascertain how the workspace was divided up. Locate any discrete activity areas identifiable on the boatyard surface and how these activities relate to boat construction, maintenance, and salvage.
- Assess whether the use of the waterfront changed after the planning mill and machine shop were constructed at the boatyard in the ca. 1870-1880s.

- Determine how the boatyard fit within the boatbuilding industry in Cumberland.
- Assess how the viability of the canal affected the prosperity of the boatyard.
- Determine how the canal boats were built (particularly how the composite beam frame curvature was attained).
- Ascertain whether portions of the boats were salvaged, what parts, and why.
- Determine whether the marine railway is of typical construction, if its design was modified to accept canal boats, or if it is of some vernacular construction.
- Determine whether the artifacts in the canal sediments are citywide refuse, canal boat waste, trash from the boatyard, or a combination.
- Recover data relating to the lock gate found opposite the lock keeper's house.
- Assess whether cultural resources associated with the Canal Towage company survived and how they relate to the C&O Canal.

#### Research Potential:

The investigations at the Weld and Sheridan Boat Building and Repair Yard waterfront and within the Main Basin combined landscape archeology and industrial archeology. Artifact recovery, although an important process, took a backseat to uncovering large expanses of the buried archeological landscape. This approach afforded an opportunity to view the relationships between features, and “see” the waterfront in a way that approaches how it was “seen” in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The development of specific research questions helped guide the field investigations, research, and analysis. Based on the success of the project, future research should follow this general model. The archeological resources within the Canal Place heritage area are of high research potential. Given that the site is on National Park Service property, management and research objectives will likely be guided heavily by the principals and goals set forth by the NPS for the Canal Place Heritage Area and the staff and research professionals that are most familiar with the site's extensive historic deposits.

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